



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hugh E. McLoone et al.

Appln. No.: 09/286,739

Filed : April 6, 1999

For : COMPUTER INPUT DEVICE WITH  
DIGIT SUPPORT AND NATURAL  
POSITION ACTUATORS

Docket No.: M61.12-0124

Group Art Unit: 2774

Examiner:

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GAU 2774  
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### PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING  
SENT BY U.S. MAIL, FIRST CLASS, TO THE  
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, THIS

20<sup>th</sup> DAY OF September, 2000

*Thomas H. May*  
PATENT ATTORNEY

Sir:

This Amendment is before the first Office Action for  
this case. Please amend the application as follows:

#### IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2, 4, ~~13~~, 15, 19-22, and 24.

Please amend claims 1, 3, 5-7, ~~14~~, 16-18, and 25 as  
follows:

1. (Amended) A mouse input device for a computer system, the  
mouse capable of being moved across a working surface to move a  
displayed object on a computer display, the mouse comprising:

an upper casing [providing a contact point for  
contacting a user's palm when a user manipulates  
the mouse];

a bottom surface designed to face the working surface;

a thumb pinching area located on a side of the mouse  
proximate the bottom surface [such that a user's  
thumb rests in the thumb pinching area when the  
user's palm is in contact with the contact point];

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